THE INTERNATIONAL.

The Organ of the International Socialist League (S.A.)

P.O. Box 4179.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street.

Johannesburg

No. 79

FRIDAY 6 APRIL 1917.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

What Are You Puffing Your Chest For?

(I. S. L. Leastet for Labour Day)

What are you puffing your chest for? You get this Labour Day by gracious permission of the Capitalist because it is a Church festival.

Every militant industrialist knows that May Day is the International festival of Labour. In Europe the military turn out against Labour Processions on May Day.

Mine Magnates and other parasites patronise Labour Day because we keep up Craft divisions, Craft Divisions in the Ranks of Labour are bulwarks of Capitalism.

Under the Craft system we see Engineers and Miners and Engine Drivers all jostling and chasing the Chamber of Mines for concessions. That is not solidarity.

Solidarity we must have or go under. Solidarity means that ALL those who work for wages have ONE CAUSE.

Then why should a jack plane, a cold chisel or a phthisis drill divide the ranks of the workers?

Only because it suits the capitalist class to pit one section of the workers against another section.

Remember that the present Craft Unions were founded when Industries were small.

Great Industries have come to-day. Great Industrial Unions must follow. Trade Unions leave thousands of workers unorganised.

Any fool knows that the capitalist enjoys seeing the workers unorganised, or organised in piffling Unions.

Nashrewd capitalist is against Trade Unions to-day.

In fact, he likes to see a lot of Trade Unions and damn few Trade Unionists.

Sooner or later all those who work for wages will have to organise in two or three Big Industrial Unions or get strafed by the Capitalist.

Every man who works for wages is a WAGE SLAVE, even under the British Flag.

There is no difference between us workers on the Labour Market and potatoes on the Municipal Market. We are all subject to the law of supply and demand. Have you ever been out of a job?

Elect which you would have? Six months out of work or German Militarism?

No Choice! If you don't go and strafe German militarism when the Bosses order you, you'll get six months out of work in any case.

After all, whichever militarism rules, we wage earners will have to beg for leave to toil from another fellow worm

The reason is that a small section called the capitalist class own all the vast machinery of production and do no work.

In order to pile profits out of the workers, who do all the work but own none of the machinery to work with.

Votes alone wont help us. They'll give us bags of votes to put place seekers into jobs.

Except you are organised industrially, capturing Parliaments won't help Labour.

What are we puffing our chests for then? What are we?

Only a drug on the Labour Market; though we are shareholders in the British Empire.

Rats! to those who talk of fighting German Militarism. What we must do is fight Capitalism at home.

Keep in mind that the Employing Class all over the world, even in the British Empire, are conspiring how to hamstring the workers after the war.

Every worker should link up in a Union covering his own particular industry, or get Unions formed for every Industry.

Remember—that you have more in common with those who work for wages, even though they be nigger boys, than with the employers.

Solidarity of Labour irrespective of Race, Colour or Craftz that is the only salvation.

Workers of the World Awaken.

Workers of the world awaken,
Break your chains, demand your rights.
All the wealth you make is taken
By exploiting parasites.
Shall you kneel in deep submission
From your cradles to your graves?
Is the height of your ambition
To be good and willing slaves?

If the workers take a notion
They can stop all speeding trains.
Every ship upon the ocean
They can tie with mighty chains.
Every wheel in the creation,
Every mine and every mill,
Fleets and armies of the nation
Will at their command stand still.

Join the Union Fellow Workers,
Men and women, side by side.
We will crush the greedy shirkers
Like a weeping, surging tide
For united we are standing,
But divided we will fall.
Let this be our understanding:
"All for One and One for All."

Workers of the World, awaken,
Rise in all your splendid might;
Take the wealth which you are making,
It belongs to you by right.
No one will for bread be crying,
We'll have freedom, love and health,
When the grand Red Fag is flying
In the workers' commonwealth.—Joe Hill.

(from "Solidarity.")

In the domain of Political Economy, free scientific enquiry meets not merely the same enemies as in all ether domains. The peculiar nature of the material it deals with summons as foes into the field of battle the most violent, mean and malignant passions of the human breasts the Furies of private Interest."—KARL MARX.

The Futility of Oxthodox Economics.

By J. M. (;

The orthodox economists and socalled Socialists, who accept Professor Stanley Jevons as their authority, have no conception of economic development. They are completely befogged, and their mental vision distorted, as is evidenced by their many fautastic ideas for reforming society.

Professor Jevons, amongst his many fallacies, tried to explain the industrial crises that occurred periodically during the nineteenth century, by spots on the sun. These crises had a recurring period of 8, 9 and 10 years right down the century; and as the spots on the sun had approximately the same periods, of course according to this genius there must be a connection between the two: Montal imbecility could go no further. Spots, on the brain, or mental kinks would have been nearer the mark.

These followers of Jevons, of whom Professor Marshall is the most noted, accepting his absurd theories are unable to see that development in society that is persistently going on irrespective of all efforts on the part of individuals or sections of society. They fail to see that economic determinism, that force that drives society along definite lines, and compels the capitalist class as it does the working class, to conform to its laws. These people sail to understand the situation created by the war. a war for markets that has forced the big financiers and capitalists to introduce State control and will compel them to go still farther and establish that Utopian dream, State Socialism, er to give it its proper name, State Capitalism.

This State Socialism, according to these dreamers, is going to create a new heaven upon earth, is going to rid humanity of all the ills that flesh is heir to.

State Socialism, nationalisation and so on, accepting Jevons' theories, fail to understand the economic structure of society, they fail to see that the adoption of any of these theories as a cure for the ills of society are bound to fail. It is simply carrying the present form of production for profit into a phase of society similar in everything but name. Our present system of society is based on individual ownership. That ownership in the case of

the big industries is collective in the form of shares held by individuals as units of Corporations and Trusts. To nationalise or establish State Ownership in these industries would necessitate the State issuing State interest bearing bonds to the amount of the capital invested in these industries. The State in running these industries would require to create a surplus profit, just as is done under the present system. This surplus profit created by the workers, would require to be sufficient to create a sinking fund to pay off these bonds and pay interest on them; and would have to provide the funds to pay back interest and capital to those good patriots, who were so loyal to their country as to feel it necessary for them to do their bit to win the war and save their country by lending their surplus cash at 5 per cent.

This surplus, produced to pay effthese good people, will have to find markets overseas, and although the world is large, it has its limits; and when that limit is reached we will have an industrial crists, caused by overproduction. It cannot be otherwise, as the system is the same, no matter by what name it is called.

This over production, with the markets glutted and the werehouses stocked to their fullest capacity, will throw not thousands but millions out of work, without the means to buy the bare necessaries of life; and will be the greatest industrial crisis the world has ever seen.

This is no fantastic theory, we have had these crises during the nine-teenth century, and many of us are old enough to remember several of them, and have first hand knowledge of the degrading effect they had upon the workers in the mass.

We Socialists who accept the Marxian economics recognise that any form of society that fails to give collective ownership in the tools of production, with production for use and not for profit, is by the very nature of things bound to be a failure. They are but attempts at reforming the capitalist system, leaving the wage slaves still under the heel of an idle class, for whom they have to starve in order to produce surplus commodities to be disposed of in the markets of the world to pay this idle class their blood money.

This production of commodities for profit in the markets of the world must continue under any system short of Socialism, and must result in these crises. These may be efforts to con-

crises, but the cure for over production will be worse than the disect. To limit production, with the improved tools introduced since the beginning of the war, will mean more unshipleyment and will create a position that will just as surely had to the downfell of the system, as an unrestricted output commodities must be lied a glut in the markets; thereby disrupting a system that is the most degrading humanity has ever had inflicted upon it.

No, palliatives won't do. It is like whitewashing a muck heap; break the whitewash and the filth is exposed beneath. The only cure is to expropriate those in possession. Confiscation has already been initiated under the present system by the taxation of incomes. Let us carry this to its logical conclusion and expropriate the expropriators, and get control of the tools of production and use them for production for use and not for profits.

Why The Crowd Laughs.

In a recent number of an art magazine the famous movie clown.

Charlie Chaplin, tries to explain why people laugh at his "antics":—

"Visualize a" bloated capitalist," with Dundreary whiskers, light trousers, spats, frock coat, silk hat all the insignia of a million dollars, more or less.

Now, when the millionaire's whiskers are pulled by an abandoned funny man like me, the crowd shricks with delight. There may be some in the audience who will think it undignified and revolutionary to pull a millionaire's whiskers, but they will be a small minority.

Perhaps the audience doesn't know why it laughs, but I do. It is because in their wildest dream the people in it never hoped to see a millionaire's whiskers pulled or his hat steppel on. That alone was worth the price of admission."

bring to the callous cheek of capitalist society the crimson of shame, it is the unspeakable crime of child slavery. The millions of babies that fester in the sweat shops are the slaves of the wheel, and cry out in their agony, but are not heard in the din and roar of industrial infernalism.

EUGENE DEBS.

Shop Control versus Craft Unionism.

A New Unionism Evolving in the Lap of the Old.

Solidarity is the name of a new ! Trade Unim monthly issued in England with which Tom Mann is connected. Its propaganda is revolutionary, i it retains the word "Trade Unionism" for sentimental reasons only. Its great propaganda: "Shop Control"

and Industrial Unionism."

Nor is this propaganda, in the air only. Its chief writers are A.S.E. rebels who are carrying out the principle of "Shop Committees" started by the Clyde Workers Committee with such effect. Such an organisation was responsible for a sudden strike of 12.000 workers in Sheffield last November. They demanded the reinstatement of a workmate who had been. debadged and forced to military service by way of victimization. So swift and powerful is this organisation by Shop Committees that the Government ignominiously gave in and restored the victimized comrade in a few days.

Why does parliamentary representation fail?

> Why does mob action fail? Why do Craft Unions fail?

These are the questions answered by Mr. J. T. Murphy, the organiser of the Sheffield Shop Steward Movement. in the second number of Solidarity, thus:--

Briefly, he describes the failure of parliamentary representation as being due to the absolute lack of control over a member until the next election. "We have no means whereby. . the workers can express spontaneously their resentment in terms of power." Meetings of protest are held at which resolutions are passed. But immediately the meetings dissolve the resolutions are dissolved also." Because "public meetings are composed of people indirectly associated. They come from all directions and then go in all directions."

That is why more parliamentary representation is a frost. It is the representation of a mob; and : a mob once dissolved never returns.

"Consider now the Trade Unions. Indirect representation, indirect action, executive control, characterises pract-

ically all of them."

"We have members from dozens of arms belonging to one and the same branch. The branch meets once a fortnight, and with a forty per cent attendance it is considered a good meeting." They elect a district delegate. The other branches do like wise. The district committee man makes his report of business the following fortnight, probably to a much different audience. The branch has a real good time, and passes a drastic resolution. Then, the meeting over, they disperse.

The following day they return to work to find the feeling in the workshop totally different to that of the Branch meeting. It cannot be turned

to account. The same thing occurs with the branch resolution as with the resolution of the public meeting, and the same explanation is applicable

Then Comrade Murphy deals with executive control, and the evil of voluntarily surrendering rights to dictators. He shows how the present system promotes delay, waiting for the formulas of District Committees, none of whose members perhaps work in the shop where the grievance has arisen.

What is the remedy for all this? SHOP CONTROL BY SHOP COMMITTEES.

There is no antagonism to the old Trade Unions. These A.S.E. rebels, Kirkwood, Murphy, Mann, and the rest, remain dutiful members of their Society. BUT, says Murphy, (and what he says he has accomplished in Sheffield):- \

"We must affirm the necessity of direct representation FROM THE WORK-SHOP to local committees and direct action in the workshop rather than indirect action outside the workshop.

"It will be at once apparent that it will be necessary to abolish craft unionism in the workshop to effectively establish and practice the principles we have affirmed."

Now for the means:

"In every workshop elect shop stewards. The skilled, the semi-skilled, the labourers, and the women each having their stewards according to the number in the Shop. These stewards then become the shop committee."

The shop committee should elect a convener. The conveners in the district should hold meetings at least once in four weeks and report business to their shop committees.

No committee should have execucutive power, but should perform the function of co-ordinating the workshops to make the will of the rank and file provail.

This organisation should proceed right through every plant in the district irrespective of the industrial occupation; and from thence, delegates to a national committee.

This system is not in the air. It is being forced into being in England by the necessities of the time. Let us remember even while we are reading of big reactionary votes in Trade Union Congresses, that the workers may in a crisis get such an iron grip over the industries of a country by this system, even within a few months, as will bring capitalism to its knees by one swift stroke.

Little thieves fear the law, big thieves fear Socialism.

Justice

The Russian Socialisis.

No Alliances with Jingo Lab Oui'.

The calibre of the Russian Social ists who have sorced and guidal the Russian revolt may be gathered from a statement which they have sent to the French Socialist Party. The French Socialist majority called a congress of the Entente Socialist Parties for March 15th. We commented on this proposed congress of allied Soc. ialist in our issue of December 1st, denouncing all such attempts to organise the workers along the lines of demarcation which the Armed Capitalist Class may choose to lay down.

Now we find that the Russian Socialists answered in the same strain. thus:--

"During the war we have had a plenary session of the Central Powers (Socialist Parties) and also of the "Socialist" Parties of the Entente at London. In the one as in the other many fine phrases were spoken about a democratic peace, the interests of the workers, and the retoration of the International.

In reality both conferences occupied themselves with the duties commanded by their 'own' Government for their voun 'Imperialism.

It is natural that the coming Conference of the Entente will repeat these stupidities.

International Socialism is traversing a crisis extremely grave. The International shambles continues, and the crisis is reaching its oulmination. At such a moment it is more than ever our duty to speak frankly, and to declare explicitly to the working classes that we shall have nothing to do with the traitors, and that we have nothing in common to discuss with Renaudel. Pletchanoff, and Vandervelde, or with Scheiddemann, Lousch, or Sudekum. Our Allies, our friends, are Liebknecht. MacLean, Höglund, and the workers. of Germany, France, England. Sweden, Russia, etc., who are fighting against their own respective Governments.

These are the motives governing our refusal to participate in the Conference of the Entente Socialist.s

At the same time we turn to the International Socialist Commission of Berne with the proposal that a conference be convened of the Zimmerwaldian (International) organisations invited to the conference of the Entente in order that such Zimmerwaldian organisations may adopt a common action in opposition to the Congress of the Entente.

(Signed) THE CENTRAL COMMIT-TEE OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIALIST LAB-OUR PARTY.

Capitalist Wiles in Capetown.

Mr. Ivan Walker, Secretary of the Typo men, returned from Cape town last week, where he organised an agitation for a rise of wages, which resulted in the typos wresting an increase of five shillings a week from the Master Printers for the se-

cond time within a year.

The methods adopted were a model of workingclass solidarity as egainst Capitalist disunity. The printers outside of the Master Printers Association were tackled, and the inerease gained from them individually. "Divide and Rule," was the Typo watchword. With these the Employers within the Association were flaming wroth and the air was thick with one set of Employers hurling "Scab" at other employers. (No court cases however occurred under the Riotous Assemblies Act.) With the scarcity of printers, and the refusal of men from the north to take jobs until the demands were granted, and the complete stoppage of immigration of contract labour, the masters had to give in-

Still, the Masters Printers in Capetown are up to all the latest dodges for stifling working class solidarity. They have instituted a Printers Benefit Association to which the masters and men contribute, the men the major portion. The benefits are alluring, but all members of the Union are debarred. This scheme is gradually beine broken down however, by the activities of the Union. The chief participators are the young printers assistants, white and coloured. who are hindered by the Benefits from forming a Union. This is the fault of the Typos. Their sectional organisation drives the lower ranks of the workers into the arms of the bosses, lured by easy pensions and benefits which hamper their freedom.

But there are indications that the Typos are being roused to fight Craft sectionalism. In the coming Conference in June the advisability of taking the Printers Assistants into the Union will be one of the main subjects on the

agenda.

Charity of the Poor.

"It began to look as if I should be compelled to go to the poor for my food. The very poor constitute the last sure recourse of the hungry tramp. The very poor can always be depended upon. They never turn away the hungry. Time and again all over the United States, have I been refused food by the big house on the hill; and always have I received food from the little shack down by the creek or marsh, with its broken windows stuffed with rags and its tired-faced mother broken with labour. Oh, you charitymongers! Go to the poor and learn, for the poor alone are charitable. They neither give nor withhold from their excess. They have no excess.

They give, and they withhold never, from what they need for themselves, and very often from what they cruelly need for themselves. A bone to the dog'is not charity, charity is the bone shared with the dog when you are just as hungry as the dog.

JACK LONDON in "The Road."

laternational Socialist League (S.A.)

OBJECT: To propagate the principles of laternational Socialism, Industrial Unionism and anti-militarism, and to maintain and strengthen international working class organisation.

P. O. Box 4179 'Phone 6035.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg

General Secretary: D. Ivon Jones.

LEAGUE NOTES.

JUHANK BBBURG:

Sunday night's meeting in the Trades Hall was devoted to a rally of May Day workers. Comrades Tyler and Dunbar presided, and Comrade Reid. Staunton. Maclean, Ivon Jones speke on the neccessity of making May Day an occasion for stirring up the South African working class to respond to the many indications of awakening throughout the world. After the speeches names were collected for committee work.

DURBAN.

Comrade Andrews, who is on a visit from Zululand, filled the gap on Sunday evening caused by the departure of Comrade Campbell to Waschbank.

The Chair was taken by Comrade Mabbott: The speaker took as his theme the progress, aims and objects the "International Socialist League", and finished up with a few words on the relations of Craft Unions Industrial Unionism. The toward lecturer's view point was that Craft Unions have not yet become obsolete. and in proof of his contention quoted the fact that the A. S. E. had made a large number of new members within the last few months. Dealing with methods of Industrial Union organisation, the lecturer was of the opinion that the already established Unions should not be scrapped but rather induced to accept the new theory of organisation and thus evolve into the Industrial Unions of the future.

Question time was fairly lively, and interest was maintained to the end.

The Branch has decided not to contest any of the seats for the Provincial council in Natal, but are watching the Transvaal Elections with interest.

May Day Celebration.

The May Day Committee has decided to hold a Grand Social Evening in the Masonic Hall on the evening of May Day. Tickets 2/6 each, are now ready and obtainable at the Head Office, 6 Trades Hall.

The capitalist exists by exploitation, lives out of the labour, that is to say the life, of the working man; consumes him, and his code of morals and standard of ethics justify it; and this proves that capitalism is cannibalism.

EUGENE DEBS.

A general meeting of all those who have promised to help

On May Day

will be held in the

TRADES HALL,

Next Tuesday the 10th inst.,

at 8 p.m.

to make further arrangements for a DEMONSTRATION and for the

SOCIAL EVENING. ROLL UP.

Creditors and Debtors in the Estate of the late John Devenish (31003) are requested to file their claims within twenty one days from date hereof to Mrs. Amy E. Devenish, No. 9 Kent Street. Jeppes Extension, Johannesburg. Executive Dative. 6th March, 1917.

The Distribution Account in the estate of the late Louis Edward Vincent 30093 will lie for inspection of all persons interested therein at the office of the Master of the Supreme Court, Pretoria, and of the Resident Magistrate. Johannesburg for a period of twenty one days from the date of publication hereof.

ELIZABETH ANNE VINCENT.

Ex Dative 89, 7th Avenue, Melville, Johannesburg. 6th March. 1917.

Have you subscribed to "The International."

5s. per annum, post sree, Bax 4179.

Johannesburg.

Printed by the Elite Printing Works, for the I.S.L.Box 4179, Jeh'burg.